

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 SCI-06 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5773

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

DOD WASHDC

ARPA WASHDC

NOAA ALBUQUERQUE SEISMOLOGICAT CENTER ALBUQUERQUE NM

NOAA BOULDER COLORADO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 3157

NOAA ALBUQUERQUE FOR JON PETERSON

NOAA BOULDER FOR WILLIAM GREEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, MILI, UK, WZ

SUBJECT: SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES PROGRAM

REFS: A) STATE 241651 B) LONDON 10947;

C) MBABANE 2024; D) STATE 185112

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER (BHC) SWAZILAND ERIC LETOCQ
RPT LETOCQ APPEARS BE WELL INFORMED SRO PROJECT. HE IN
POSSESSION TEXT REFTEL D. HE ALSO HAS COPIES LONDON
CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING LETTER FROM PANTON TO ONE
DILLERY (PHONETIC) AT EMBASSY LONDON INDICATING HE BEING
KEPT INFORMED. LETOCQ DEPARTS SWAZILAND DECEMBER 20 FOR
THREE-MONTHS LEAVE AND CONSULTATION U. K.

2. LETOCQ BELIEVES APPROVAL SRO PROGRAM NOT RPT NOT
NECESSARILY TIED TO STATION-LEASE RENEWAL. HE OF OPINION
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TERMS PRESENT LEASE ALLOW DEVELOPMENT SRO PROJECT WITHOUT

CONSULTING SWAZIS.

3. LEASE BETWEEN U.K. ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY AND NGWENYAMA (KING) AS CUSTODIAN SWAZI NATIONAL LAND CONCLUDED MAY 1967 FOR 10-YEAR PERIOD AT EQUIVALENT APPROX. \$734 ANNUAL RENT. CLAUSE STIPULATES THAT RENEWAL CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY NOTICE LESSEE TO KING SIX MONTHS BEFORE EXPIRATION CURRENT LEASE. HOWEVER, SNAG HERE IS THAT U. K. MINISTRY DEFENSE NOW RPT NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR GEOPHYSICAL PROJECT AND ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY MUST EITHER SUBLEASE OR CONVEY LEASE WITH APPROVAL NGWENYAMA BEFORE IT UP FOR RENEWAL. BHC NOW ATTEMPTING CONVINCE HOME OFFICE THAT NEW LESSEE SHOULD BE HMG AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE AUTHORITY SIGN SINCE HE BELIEVES "MINISTRY DEFENSE" AS LESSEE HAS NEGATIVE AFFECTIVE CONNOTATIONS.

4. LETOCQ PERSONALLY DISCUSSING RENEWAL LEASE WITH MINISTER JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO WILL EVENTUALLY SOLICIT NGWENYAMA APPROVAL. LETOCQ SUGGESTED AND EMBASSY AGREES FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAZIS SHOULD BE DEFERRED PENDING LETOCQ RETURN. THERE SOME POSSIBILITY OF MEETINGS LONDON IF IT DETERMINED DESIRABLE SINCE MINISTER JUSTICE POLYCARP DLAMINI EXPLORING FEASIBILITY OF ROYAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION WHICH HE HEADS VISITING U.K. FOR CONSULTATION. SPICER

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